

County Snapshot

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Ventura County is bordered on the north by Kern County, on the west by Santa Barbara County, and on the south and east by Los Angeles County. The southwestern border includes 42 miles of Pacific Ocean coastline.

With a projected population of 981,600 by 2020, Ventura County is expected to experience a steady increase in population over the next 20 years. The 1999 population of 744,800 will increase by approximately 32 percent over this period.

The 1999 annual average statistics show the civilian labor force for the county to be 395,800 with an unemployment rate of 4.8 percent. This compares with the state's unemployment rate of 5.2 percent.

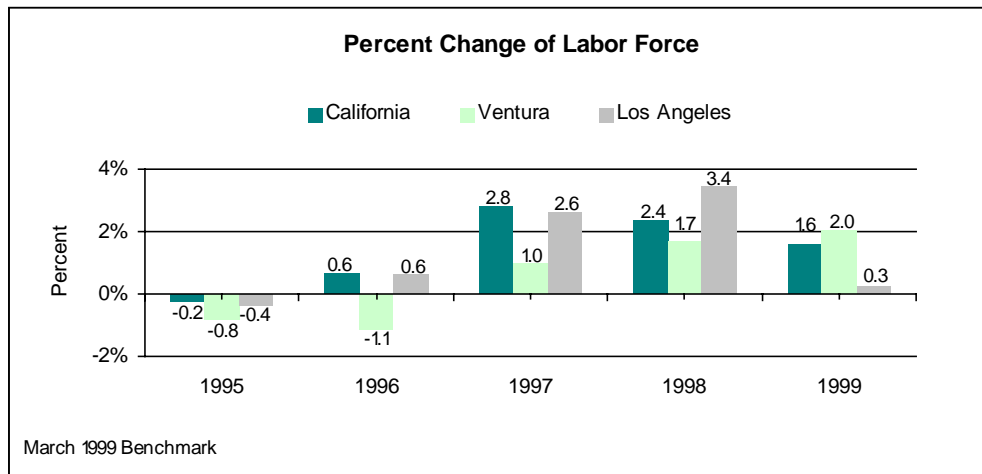
Services is the largest industry division in the county, accounting for 27.3 percent of total employment. Retail trade (17.7 percent) and government (15.7 percent) are also major employment sectors.

Manufacturing is one of the fastest growing industries with a seven-year projected growth rate of 34.8 percent. An increase of 11,400 job openings is projected by 2004 for this industry sector. The greatest demand will be for assemblers and fabricators, with more than 500 job openings over the seven-year period.

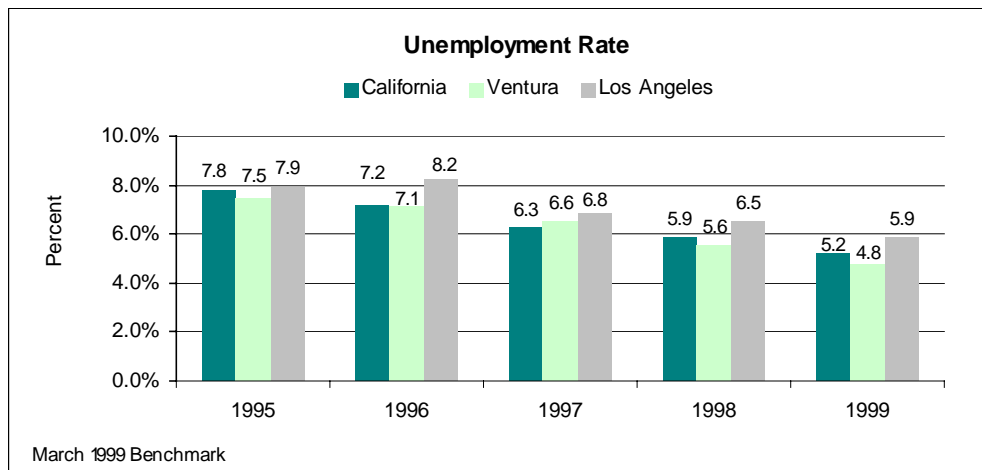
Labor market conditions in Ventura County, also known as the Oxnard-Ventura Metropolitan Statistical Area, have been steadily improving over the last five years and the county continues to record job growth and lower unemployment rates.

LABOR FORCE

Ventura County's civilian labor force began a growth trend in 1997 and continuing through 1999 with 2.0 percent. Sustained labor force gains were also recorded in neighboring Los Angeles County, which had the greatest increase in 1998 with 3.4 percent.

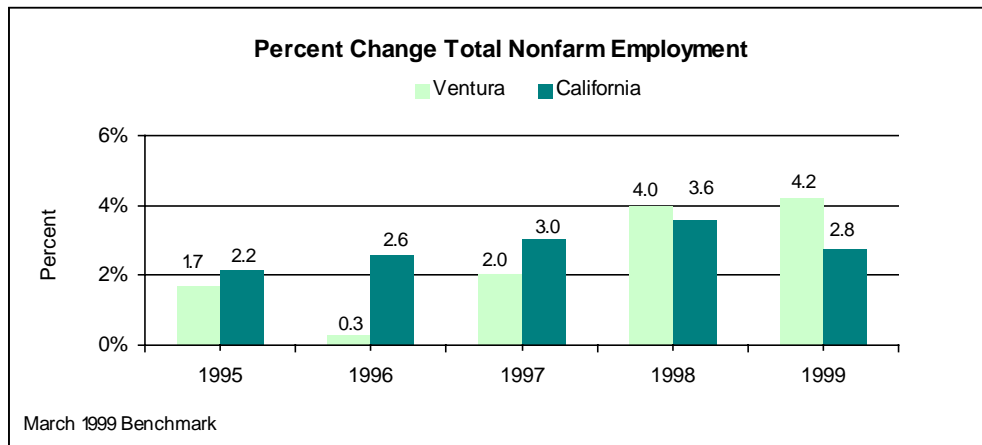


While steadily declining since 1995, unemployment rates for Ventura County have consistently stayed within a few tenths of a percentage point of the state's unemployment rate. Los Angeles County has also enjoyed an overall-declining rate for the five-year period.

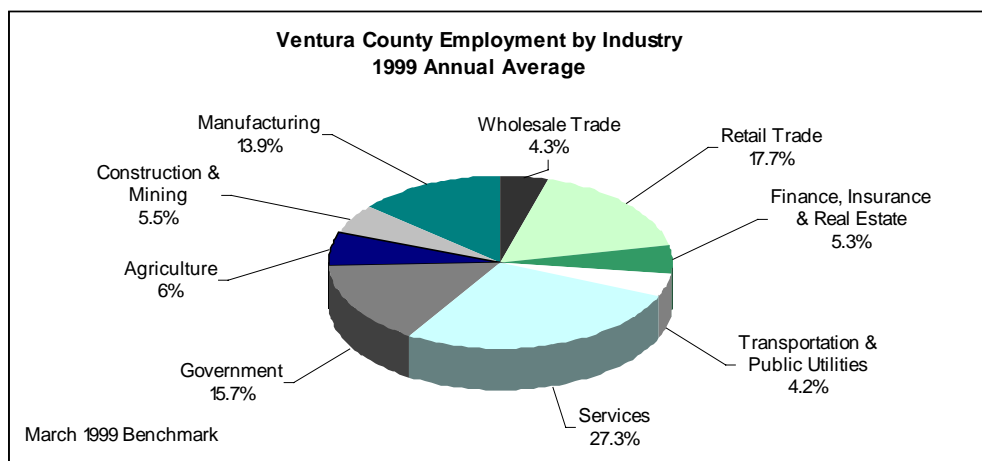


INDUSTRY EMPLOYMENT

Ventura County nonagricultural wage and salary employment has shown strong growth since 1995. Payroll employment grew by 25,700 over the five-year period and manufacturing accounted for the greatest growth with a 9,300 increase. Services grew by 5,100, with most of the growth in business services.



In 1999, services, retail trade, and government were dominant industries in Ventura County's employment. During the forecast period of 1997 – 2004, it is expected that the greatest future job growth in the county will be in the manufacturing, services, and government industry sectors.



OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT

Demographic trends, shifts in demands for products or services, technological innovations and the way business is conducted are some of the variables that drive employment in an occupation up or down. Also, occupations which have large employment and have high turnover rates generally provide the most job openings. Ventura County is projected to have many employment opportunities in the high turnover occupations.

Associated Occupations	MANUFACTURING 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 34.8%
	Assemblers, Fabricators-Except Machine, Electrical – 520 job openings. Assemble and/or fit together parts to form complete units or subassemblies at a bench, conveyor line, or on the floor. Duties are of a non-precision nature. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.85
	General Managers, Top Executives – 330 job openings. Include both top and mid-level managers whose duties and responsibilities are too diverse and general in nature to be classified in any functional or line area of management and administration. Work Experience, plus a Bachelor's or higher. Median Hourly Wage - \$34.36
	First-Line Supervisor/Manager, Production – 310 job openings. Directly supervise and coordinate activities of construction or extractive workers. Work Experience. Median Hourly Wage - \$18.33
	Packaging and Filling Machine Operators and Tenders – 300 job openings. Operate or tend machines such as filling machines, casing running machines, ham rolling machines, preservative filling machines, baling machines, wrapping and stuffing machines to prepare industrial or consumer products as end products or for storage and shipment. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$8.80
	Numerical Machine Tool Setters, Operators and Tenders, Metal and Plastic – 280 job openings. Set up and operate computer-numerically controlled machine tools or robots to perform one or more machine functions on metal or plastic workpieces. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$12.47
Associated Occupations	SERVICES 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 16.2%
	Child Care Workers – 500 job openings. Attend to children at child care centers, schools, businesses, and institutions. Perform variety of tasks such as dressing, feeding, bathing, and overseeing play. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.92
	Laborers, Landscaping / Groundskeeping – 430 job openings. Maintain grounds of property using hand or power tools or equipment. May work in nursery facility or at customer location. Workers typically perform a variety of tasks including, sod laying, mowing, trimming, planting, watering, fertilizing, digging, raking, and sprinkler installation. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.80
	Receptionists, Information Clerks – 420 job openings. Answer inquiries and obtain information for the general public concerning activities conducted at an establishment, such as the location of offices or persons within the firm, departments within the store, or services within the hotel. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.42
	Janitors, Cleaners-Except Maids – 410 job openings. Keep buildings in clean and orderly condition; perform heavy cleaning duties such as operating motor driven cleaning equipment, mopping floors, washing walls and glass, and removing rubbish. Short-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.09
	Computer Engineers – 310 job openings. Assist in the selection and installation of computer systems by providing technical advice and support. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$27.65
Associated Occupations	GOVERNMENT 1997 – 2004 Projected Growth 10.9%
	Human Services Workers – 100 job openings. Assist Social Group Workers and Caseworkers with developing, organizing and conducting programs to prevent and resolve problems relevant to substance abuse and human relationships. Moderate-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$9.24
	Recreation Workers – 100 job openings. Conduct recreation activities with groups in public, private, or volunteer agencies or recreation facilities. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$7.04
	Systems Analysts, Electronic Data Processor – 80 job openings. Analyze business, scientific, and technical problems for application to electronic data processing systems. Bachelor's Degree. Median Hourly Wage - \$24.04
	Police Patrol Officers – 50 job openings. Maintain order, enforce laws and ordinances, protect life and property in an assigned patrol district or beat. Patrol on foot or in a vehicle; investigate accidents; apprehend, arrest and process prisoners; and give evidence in court. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$23.85
	Sheriffs and Deputy Sheriffs – 50 job openings. Enforce law and order in rural or unincorporated districts or serve legal processes of courts. May patrol courthouse, guard court or grand jury, or escort defendants. Long-term on-the-job training. Median Hourly Wage - \$13.94

This **County Snapshot** is a product of:
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Labor Market Information Division
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